

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 02509 181303Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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P R 181215Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1384
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2509

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UN SHUM
SUBJECT: UN HUMANRIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

REF: A. STATE 036388 B. STATE 24394

1. BECAUSE OF THE DEATH OF THE INDIAN PRESIDENT, WE WERE
UNABLE TO TAKE UP THE US POSITION IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
WITH THE INDIAN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS UNTIL WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 16. ON THAT DATE THE CHARGE CARRIED OUT THE DEPT'S
INSTRUCTIONS (REFTEL B), SAYING THAT HE BELIEVED IT QUITE
APPROPRIATE THAT WE SEEK COOPERATION OF THE INDIAN GOVT IN VIEW
OF RECENT STEPS TAKEN IN INDIA (I.E. RELAXATION OF THE EMER-
GENCY AND THE ELECTIONS). THE CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT THE UNITED
STATES WOULD BE SEEKING NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE HUMAN
RIGHTS IN VARIOUS UN ORGANS AND EMPHASIZED THAT IT INTENDED TO
AVOID SELECTIVE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE. HE ALSO EMPHA-
SIZED OUR ADVOCACY OF MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE
POINTED OUT THAT WHILE WE DID NOT EXPECT UNIFORM ACCEPTANCE OF
OUR STANDARDS WE COULD NOT IGNORE THOSE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN
RIGHTS LISTED IN PARA 6, REFTEL B. (THE CHARGE LISTED THEM
EXPLICITLY). MEHTA REPLIED THAT INDIA HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED HUMAN
RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY WHERE THEIR DENIAL CONTRIBUTES TO POLITICAL
PROBLEMS SUCH AS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE SAID THAT HE NEED
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HARDLY MENTION THE ISSUE WHICH ARISES WHEN INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP
HUMANRIGHTS "COME UP AGAINST THE REALITIES OF INDIVIDUAL SOVEREIGN--
TIES," HE MENTIONED HELSINKI AND, NOW, BELGRADE IN THIS
REGARD, HE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS STATE (AS THEY DID TO THE INDIANS
DURING THE RECENT BILATERAL TALKS) THAT TOO MUCH EMPHASIS IS
PLACED ON INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS; THEY CLAIM THE FOCUS SHOULD BE ON
COLLECTIVE OR MASS RIGHTS SUCH AS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. MEHTA

SAID THAT INDIA'S POSITION WAS NOT REPEAT NOT THAT OF THE SOVIETS. BUT THE POLITICAL PROBLEM (I.E. WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS COME UP AGAINST THE REALITY OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTIES) IS THERE AS IN ALL MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY.

2. EXTENDING HIS REMARKS TO THE MIDDLE EAST, MEHTA REMARKED THAT THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLES IN THE TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL ARE A PART OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM. HE SAID THAT ZIONISM WAS AN EXTENSION OF THE DIMENSION OF WHAT HE CALLED THE "POLITICAL PROBLEM". IF CURRENT MOVES TOWARD A RESOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, SUCCEED THEN THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS WHICH ARISE FROM THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM WOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF.

3. MEHTA SAID THAT INDIA WAS BEING REPRESENTED BY H.N. TRIVEDI AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS MEETINGS AND HE WOULD INFORM TRIVEDI OF THE CHARGE'S APPROACH.
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